



*Chair, Families & Human
Services Committee
Appropriations Committee:
Chair, Family Independence
Agency, Commerce, Labor
& Economic Development,
Capitol Outlay,
Higher Education*

*SENATOR
BILL HARDIMAN*

E-Hardiman Herald



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MARCH IS READING MONTH

March is Reading Month in Michigan and marks a good time to think about the importance of reading in a young person's life. Over the last few years the Legislature has accomplished significant work in making sure that children in Michigan know how to read and understand its importance in everyday life.

Starting on Friday, March 4th Senator Hardiman will again participate in Reading Month by reading to three area schools;

- Meadowlawn Elementary, 4939 Burgis SE, Kentwood, MI 49508
- Glenwood Elementary, 912 Silverleaf SE, Kentwood, MI 49508
- Ada Christian School, 6206 Ada Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Additionally, throughout the month of March Senator Hardiman will be visiting several schools in the 29th District. If you would like Senator Hardiman to visit your school and read to a group of students please contact the office at 866-305-2129.

HARDIMAN PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

Last month Senator Hardiman introduced Senate Bill 127 that would give mobile-phone users the ability to choose whether their numbers are put into a nationwide directory. Giving customers the ability to "opt-in" to this program will protect the privacy of their cell number.

SB 127 would require that mobile-phone service providers receive written unambiguous consent from their subscribers before listing them in a directory. There will be a provision in place for electronic consent as well. Hardiman sponsored this bill in response to a nationwide directory that is being discussed by major mobile-phone service providers. People would be able to access the directory by dialing 411 if the nationwide directory became available. SB 127 is similar to a California law which was passed last fall. Technology changes very quickly and we must stay ahead of the curve by protecting our privacy.

SB 127 was recently referred to the Senate Technology and Energy Committee.

HARDIMAN SPEAKS AT SYMPOSIUM TO EXPLORE EFFECT OF RACE AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Senator Hardiman was part of a diverse audience of more than 150 community leaders who gathered in Dearborn last Friday, February 25th, to examine the effect race relations in the region have on achieving cooperation within southeast Michigan.

The symposium, “Dealing with Race: The Quest for Regional Cooperation,” was co-sponsored by New Detroit and the Woodrow Wilson International Center of Washington, DC at the Ritz-Carlton.

Hardiman was asked to participate in the panel discussion because of his unique experience as a former mayor of a first ring suburb that surrounded a large urban area. This was an opportunity for some of the region’s business and community leaders to engage in a dialogue about the racial disparities that keep the city and suburban areas divided.

The keynote address was delivered to the morning symposium by June Manning Thomas, Ph.D., Professor in the Urban and Regional Planning Program at Michigan State University. She discussed the relationship between racism and economic and social growth and how racial disparity affects the prosperity of the region.

Thomas’ presentation was discussed by a panel including Senator Bill Hardiman; Anika Goss-Foster, program director of Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC); Peter Karmanos, chairman and CEO of Compuware Corporation and Jim Townsend, executive director of Tourism Economic Development Council. Philippa Strum, director of the Division of the United States Studies for the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, moderated the discussion.

KENT COUNTY TAX CREDIT COALITION HELPING DURING TAX SEASON

Once again, the Kent County Tax Credit Coalition (KCTCC) will help thousands of Kent County residents file their taxes. Last year, more than \$1.7 million was put into taxpayer’s pockets thanks to the efforts of the KCTCC.

The program, now in its third year, provides free online tax preparation services to eligible taxpayers focusing on the Earned Income Tax Credit. In some cases, eligible taxpayers could get a refund up to \$4,000. KCTCC sites opened February 1st and will be open over the next several months. Two years ago over \$4 million went unclaimed in Kent County.

For more information regarding this program please contact the Kent County Tax Credit Coalition at 616-234-4041.

SENATOR HARDIMAN DISTRICT OFFICE HOURS

Office hours will be held on the first Monday of each month from 10:00am – 11:30am throughout the 29th district. On Monday, March 7th Senator Hardiman will be holding monthly district office hours at Sandy’s Donut House, 2040 Leonard NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. Be sure to talk to the Senator at these upcoming office hours:

- Monday, April 4th, Keiser’s Kitchen, 700 E. Main, Lowell, MI 49331
- Monday, May 2nd, Baxter Community Center, 935 Baxter SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Senator Hardiman will hold this time each month so constituents of the 29th district have an opportunity to speak to him about any questions or concerns they may have regarding state issues. You can also contact Senator Hardiman via his toll-free number: 1-866-305-2129 or e-mail: senbhardiman@senate.michigan.gov to set-up a meeting outside of the district hours.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Hardiman Herald is designed to provide residents and organizations with a timely update of Senator Bill Hardiman's activity in Lansing. If you have any questions, please contact Senator Hardiman's office.

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